Democracy depends upon an educated and informed electorate. However, the public cannot be educated or informed if the media--one of the key sites for both education and news--does not offer diverse opinions.

A centralized media can only lead to a misinformed--even ignorant--public. As an American, I have to protest strongly the FCC's wavering stance on the cross-ownership ban. It is critical that a degree of media

diversity be maintained. Please protect democracy by protecting media independence.

Thank you. Sincerely, Patricia Ventura